

Inside Wallops

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Goddard Space Flight Center
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ATK Rocket Launch Fails

An Alliant Techsystems (ATK) suborbital rocket carrying two NASA hypersonic experiments was destroyed shortly after liftoff from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, Friday, August 22.

The exact time of launch was 5:10 a.m. EDT. The anomaly that caused the failure occurred approximately 21 seconds into flight and is not known at this time.

Most debris from the rocket is thought to have fallen in the Atlantic Ocean. No injuries or property damage have been reported.

NASA Wallops recovery teams were immediately dispatched and searched for debris on Wallops, Assawoman, and Metompkin Islands.

As some debris may still wash ashore, anyone who thinks they may have found rocket debris are advised not to touch it, but to report it to the Wallops Emergency Operations Center at 757 824-1300.

The mission was a partnership between ATK of Salt Lake City and the Fundamental Aeronautics Program in NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate. ATK provided the launch vehicle and launch services and NASA provided the range services.



NASA Photo

Sea Turtles Nest On Wallops Island

A loggerhead sea turtle nest was recently discovered on Wallops Island by EG&G Environmental Scientist, Shane Whealton, (below) while surveying the Wallops Recreational Use Beach for stranded marine animals.

appeared to be undisturbed by predators. Whealton immediately contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Wallops resident U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Service technicians, who covered the nest with a wire

NASA Wallops is taking steps to protect the loggerhead's nest and the hatchlings, which are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The nest is located approximately 135 feet east of the point where the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) access road empties onto the Recreational Use Beach. The nest has been flagged and foot traffic inside the flagged area is prohibited. Vehicular traffic entering and exiting the beach should give the flagged area as wide a berth as possible.

During the hatch window (mid-September to mid-October) the section of beach south of the ORV access road to the sea wall will be placed off limits.

The beach between the nest and the ocean will be raked to remove tire ruts which have the potential to trap or disorient young hatchlings and a light barrier will be erected to keep hatchlings from straying off course by following stray luminescent sources. When the hatch window closes, that area of the beach will be reopened.



Joe Mitchell Photo

Following the characteristic tread tracks of a marine turtle up the beach, Whealton observed that, unlike previous turtle "crawls" he had encountered, this nest

"enclosure" to guard against traditional egg eaters such as raccoons and fox. The FWS confirmed the presence of logger-head sea turtle eggs in the nest cavity.

What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, or meningitis, an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord, in humans and other animals.

The virus is spread to humans, birds and other animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. A mosquito becomes infected by biting a bird that is carrying the virus. West Nile is spread from person to person, and no evidence indicates the virus can be spread directly from birds to humans.

The symptoms generally appear about three to six days after exposure. People over age 50 are at a greater risk of severe illness.

Milder symptoms include:

- a slight fever
- headache
- body aches
- swollen glands
- sometimes a skin rash

Severe symptoms include

- high fever
- intense headache
- stiff neck
- confusion

Most people who suffer a mild illness due to West Nile virus recover, and no treatment is necessary. Treatment is required for more serious cases. Testing for West Nile virus involves a blood or spinal fluid test that can take several weeks to confirm. No vaccine is available at this time for West Nile virus infection in humans.

The Virginia Department of Health, along with multiple other agencies, is monitoring for mosquito-borne viruses in birds, mosquitoes, horses and humans. The public is encouraged to eliminate mosquito breeding areas around your home. The species of mosquitoes most likely to carry the virus can breed in your own backyard.

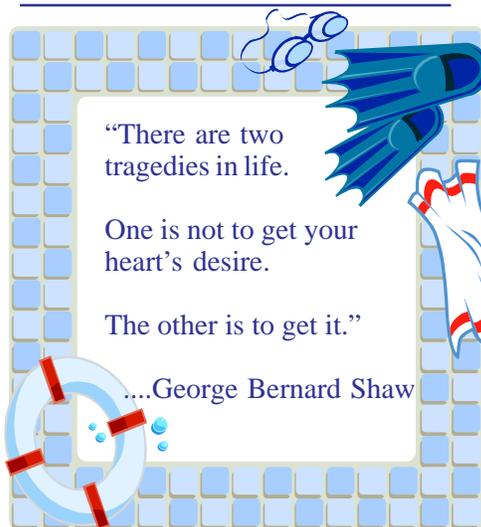


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tandem axle trailer w/winch, DF, VHF,
Stereo, trim tabs, Canopy, swim
platform. Good Condition. \$6,700 Call
Mike at 757-709-0427.



"There are two
tragedies in life.

One is not to get your
heart's desire.

The other is to get it."

....George Bernard Shaw



The community is invited to
Goddard Space Flight Center for
LaunchFest, an open house
celebrating Goddard's several
major missions on Saturday,
September 13.

A variety of activities will take
place during the day;
demonstrations, tours, live
entertainment, delicious cuisine
from several food vendors, and
Wallops displays.

For more information contact
Leslee Cork in Goddard's Public
Affairs Office at 66-0676.



.....to all who donated to the
blood drive August 13.

There were 27 sign-ins, and the
American Red Cross left with 22
usable units

Range Safety Operations

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

September 8 – 12

Building E-107, Room 117

Instructor: Ron Ten Haken

The course is offered at no cost to NASA
and contractor employees

Registration is via SATERN at the
following site: [https://satern.nasa.gov/
elms/learner/authenticate.do](https://satern.nasa.gov/elms/learner/authenticate.do)

For further information, call Olive Finney
at x2463.

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